

MAY 11 1998

May 5, 1998

Rick Breitenbach
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155,
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: CalFed's Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report

Any plan for California water will profoundly affect our environment, quality of life, and our future well into the twenty-first century. Therefore, it is vital that the project is cost-effective and that it does not add on nor create any new environmental problems.

In the past, during the most recent drought period, it was clearly demonstrated that developing an understanding of the need to conserve and the steps to be followed produced a surplus for the period and was eminently feasible. It avoided the evils of chlorination and did no damage to water quality from water diversion techniques. Innovative farmers and districts are currently implementing practices that show water savings of up to 25 or even 50%.

A new round of engineering fixes is not the smart choice for California. Creating healthy upper watersheds is where you will find the natural storage capacity for water to repair the Delta. Advances in urban, agricultural, and industrial water conservation will enable us to use the water we have more efficiently so that farms, families, businesses and wildlife will have ample water.

Therefore, I urge you to give major consideration to a plan which employs a conservation-based approach. I urge you to make sure there are no new costly dams, reservoirs or canal; that we use our present water supply more efficiently; that there are plans to restore our watersheds and groundwater basins for high quality and reliable water supplies; and that the plan avoids more water diversions that harm California's birds, wetlands, rivers, and wildlife.

Most sincerely,

(Mrs) Elizabeth A. Kasper

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DEPARTMENT OF
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SACRAMENTO

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